

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY H AMB MCCLOSKEY

APPROVED BY S/JCOVEY

S: JCOVEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 124717 TOSEC 020088

NODIS

E.O1652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BASES, SP

SUBJ: SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS

REFTEL: MADRID 3581

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM MCCLOSKEY

FOR AMBASSADOR STABLER

1. THIS IS INTENDED AS A FOOTNOTE TO A PORTION OF THE
REFTEL WHICH RESULTED FROM THE STATEMENTS OF FOREIGN
MINISTER CORTINA DURING YOUR MEETING AT TORREJON LAST
WEEK. BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN THE
NEGOTIATING SESSIONS TO DATE AND SIMILAR STATEMENTS MADE
SEPARATELY TO ME BY CORTINA, I HAD EARLIER SUBMITTED A
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT WITH INTER-AGENCY CLEARANCES THROUGH
THE NSC FOR THE PRESIDENT, AN ADVANCE COPY OF WHICH I AM
TOLD IS IN A BRIEFING BOOK ACCOMPANYING YOU. THIS MESSAGE
ADDRESSES ITSELF ONLY TO THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE REF-
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2. UNDERSECRETARY ROVIRA (THE SPANISH NEGOTIATOR) DID SUGGEST INFORMALLY TO ME AT OUR LAST ROUND IN APRIL THAT WE MIGHT HAVE TO CONSIDER EXTENDING THE CURRENT AGREEMENT A FEW MONTHS, "PERHAPS UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR," IF WE FIND OURSELVES UNABLE TO COMPLETE THE NEGOTIATIONS BY SEPTEMBER. I WAS NONCOMMITAL BECAUSE: A) I BELIEVED WE

SHOULD GET CLOSER TO THE TERMINATION DATE AND ASSESS WHAT PROGRESS WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO MAKE BEFORE FORMALLY AGREEING TO AN EXTENSION, AND, B) I CONSIDERED THAT, IF WE DECIDED TO EXTEND, IT MIGHT BE IN OUR INTEREST TO SEEK IT FOR A FULL YEAR. I AM NOW OF THE VIEW THAT AN EXTENSION WILL BE INEVITABLE.

3. THE OTHER POINT OF THE PARAGRAPH - THAT WE DELIBERATELY TAKE OUR TIME WITH AN EYE TOWARD ATTAINING A MORE SATISFYING AGREEMENT WITH A SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT - NEGLECTS THE REAL SENSITIVITY MANIFESTED BY THE GOS NEGOTIATORS OF THE NEED TO FRAME AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL PROVE ACCEPTABLE TO SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION. I HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE THAT A SUCCESSOR REGIME WOULD BE MORE AGREEABLE TO REACHING A SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD BE BOTH MORE DURABLE OR MORE ATTRACTIVE TO US. INDEED, IT IS POSSIBLE SUCH AN EFFORT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT. IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT IT WILL BE EASIER POLITICALLY FOR THE FRANCO GOVERNMENT TO SIGN A NEW AGREEMENT OF MUTUAL SATISFACTION THAN IT WOULD PROVE FOR ANY SUCCESSOR.

4. FINALLY, FROM A REMARK YOU MADE TO ME LAST SATURDAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE INDICATING THAT YOU HAD SOME FIXED VIEW FOR WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE DONE IN SPAIN, I HOPE TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH YOU AFTER YOU RETURN AND HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REACT TO MY STATUS REPORT AND REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL NEGOTIATING GUIDELINES.

5. SEPARATE ITEM. WELCOME TO THE '52-CLUB:' MOST U.S. NEWSPAPERS TODAY FEATURE YOU BLOWING OUT 52 CANDLES ON A BIRTHDAY CAKE WITH THE CONFIDENT LOOK OF A MAN WHO JUST ORDERED THE SPENDING OF \$1 TRILLION TO OFFSET ENERGY SHORTAGES. WARM REGARDS.

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